

STARS AND STRIPES

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

Germany won't back resolution

BY TONY CZUCZKA
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has made plain that Germany will refuse to back an Iraq war resolution in the U.N. Security Council, ending weeks of hedging and aligning himself more closely with his main European partner, France, before Germany chairs the council next month.

Schröder's clearest position yet is likely to further displease President Bush, who this week scolded countries — like Germany — that are seeking more time for U.N. weapons inspectors to search in Iraq.

"Don't expect Germany to approve a resolution legitimizing war; don't expect it," Schröder told a rally of his Social Democratic party Tues-

day night in Lower Saxony, where state elections are due Feb. 2.

That followed similar statements by France, which said this week that it sees no justification for a war for now and left open the possibility of a French veto if the United States sought a new Security Council resolution authorizing military action.

Schröder has already ruled out a German combat role in any Iraq war. He has maintained an uneasy balance for months between his country's alliance with the United States and strong anti-war sentiment in Germany, which helped him win re-election last year.

His platform built on defiance of Washington has left U.S.-German ties strained.

Though it wields no veto, Germany is set to assume a



AP

On Wednesday, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, left, said he will back French President Jacques Chirac in his decision to not back any Iraq war resolution that comes before the U.N. Security Council.

central role in Iraq war diplomacy when it takes over the council chairmanship in February, just after U.N. inspec-

tors are due to submit a progress report on Jan. 27.

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Report offers snapshot of blacks in DOD

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Blacks may be represented in higher numbers in the U.S. military than in the general U.S. population, but most of the servicemembers pulling triggers and dropping bombs are white, according to recently released Defense Department statistics.

About 20 percent of the U.S. military is black, compared to 13 percent of the American population, but most black servicemembers hold administrative and medical jobs, according to a report released by DOD officials last week.

Just 15 percent of the servicemembers in combat arms branches — artillery, infantry and armor — are black.

Meanwhile, the statistics showed that blacks hold 36 percent of all functional support and administration jobs in the military, while 27 percent of all person-

nel in medical and dental fields are black.

The reason blacks choose less combat-oriented jobs is complex, according to academics specializing in military demographics issues.

"There are a lot of different things going on," David Segal, a military sociologist at the University of Maryland, said in a Tuesday telephone interview. "And a lot of the reasons are rather hard to quantify, although we know they're true."

For example, one reason blacks tend to focus on combat support jobs "is a desire for skills that are transferable to the civilian labor force," Segal said. "The combat arms don't offer that easy transfer" of skills.

Moreover, "blacks believe that in order to get a [civilian] job, they have to be better than their white [counterparts]," Segal said. "Having been in a military offers that 'stamp of approval' for many civilian employers."

Another factor, Segal said, is that the military often offers extra higher education benefits for individuals who choose hard-to-fill skills, which includes many combat arms billets.

And once blacks join the service, they are more likely to stay in, Segal said — a statement DOD retention figures support.

The reason for the higher retention, Segal said, is that blacks believe they have a better chance of color-blind success inside the military than in the civilian world.

"There's no question that African Americans perceive, I think correctly, that the military is a more fair employer" than civilian employers, Segal said. "They come in to get job skills, but once they're in, they [say to themselves], 'I can do better here than I could do if I get out.'"

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Germany

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German and French leaders, who have agreed to consult closely on Iraq, reinforced their stance in newspaper articles published Wednesday in Germany's *Berliner Zeitung* and France's *Liberation*.

"In the crises involving terrorism, Iraq and North Korea, our peoples can count on the governments of Germany and France to join forces to preserve peace, avoid war and ensure people's security," Schroeder wrote.

"Our aim is to put the power of Europe at the service of peace," said French President Jacques Chirac. "That underlines our actions in Afghanistan and in the Iraq crisis."

While seeking partnership with France, Germany has gone even further than Paris in its anti-war stance. The French have left open the possibility of military action against Saddam Hussein as a last resort, but Schroeder has not.

News tracker: What's new with old news

Military

Missing pilot: As the United States prepares for war with Iraq, resolving the 12-year mystery of a Navy pilot from Jacksonville, Fla., shot down on the first night of the 1991 Gulf War has taken on new urgency.

Two senators, Florida Democrat Bill Nelson and Kansas Republican Pat Roberts, new chairmen of the Senate Intelligence Committee, pushed officials from Kuwait and the Red Cross to raise the case of Scott Speicher when they met with Iraqi officials Wednesday in Jordan.

Since 1991, Speicher has been reclassified from "killed in action" to "missing/captured." Iraq denies holding him, but recent intelligence reports indicate he may be alive, perhaps to be used as a bargaining chip on the eve of war.

War on terrorism

Shoe bomber: Hoping to ensure that the "shoe bomber" ends his days in prison, federal prosecutors released new details Tuesday that show Richard C. Reid tried six times to light a bomb in his sneakers aboard a trans-Atlantic flight a year ago, and was so determined that he melted the end of the bomb fuse.

Reid abruptly pleaded guilty last October. He is to be sentenced on Jan. 30 in Boston in federal court.

Money matters

Victory disclosure: Under scrutiny by an outside ethics agency, the Bush administration's top telecommunications administrator will officially report that lobbyists helped pay for a 2001 reception in her honor at her home.

Tuesday's decision followed an Associated Press story revealing that Nancy Victory allowed three wireless phone company lobbyists to help pay for the party, just 10 days before she urged immediate repeal of restrictions that the biggest wireless companies had complained about for years.

Until Tuesday, Victory and the Commerce Department insisted that they were correct in not publicly revealing the party.

States

Oklahoma City bombing: The Oklahoma Supreme Court has appointed a judge to preside over a preliminary hearing for state murder charges against bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, jump-starting a case that has languished in state courts for three years.

District Judge Charles Allen McCall was named on Tuesday for the hearing, which will determine whether Nichols will be tried for 160 counts of first-degree murder for the Oklahoma City bombing.

Nichols was convicted of federal charges of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to life in prison for the deaths of eight federal agents in the

bombing. He faces the death penalty if found guilty on state charges.

Declawing ban: The city that reclassified pet owners as "guardians" two years ago is now pushing what could become the first U.S. ban on declawing cats.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to publicly condemn declawing and proposed a ban on the surgery. The city attorney now has a month to draft a proposal. Declawing is banned in already several European nations.

The move was hailed by animal advocates who say declawing is inhumane because it cuts off part of a cat's toes. Some cat owners have their pets declawed to keep them from scratching people or furniture.

World

North Korean talks: A top U.S. envoy said Wednesday he was rounding up enough support for the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency to refer the North Korea crisis to the U.N. Security Council, and he expected a referral as early as the end of this week.

The Security Council could consider leveling economic or political sanctions against North Korea, a move Pyongyang says is tantamount to war.

The development came as the two Koreas opened high-level talks in Seoul Wednesday that South Korean officials hoped would address tension over the North's nuclear program.

From wire reports

Rumsfeld apologizes for remarks on draftees

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld apologized to veterans for remarks he made on the military draft that he said had been misconstrued by some as disparaging their service.

Rumsfeld issued a written apology Tuesday evening just hours after three Democrats in Congress criticized his statement that draftees had added "no value, no advantage" to the U.S. military because they served for such short periods of time.

The letter signed by Sens. Tom Daschle of South Dakota and John Kerry of Massachusetts and Rep. Lane Evans of Illinois argued that Rumsfeld's remarks at a Pentagon news conference were offensive to veterans.

"We are shocked, frankly, that you were apparently willing to dismiss the value of the service of millions of Americans, tens of thousands of whom gave their lives for their country in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam," they wrote.

Rumsfeld made his comments Jan. 7

in response to a reporter's question about an effort by some in Congress to reinstitute the draft.

Rumsfeld, 70, who served in the active-duty Navy from 1954-57, said he saw no need for a draft because the all-volunteer system that replaced conscription in the 1970s works better.

"If you think back to when we had the draft, people were brought in, they were paid some fraction of what they could make in the civilian manpower market because they were without choices," Rumsfeld said.

"Big categories were exempted — people that were in college, people that were teaching, people that were married. It varied from time to time, but there were all kinds of exemptions. And what was left was sucked into the intake, trained for a period of months, and then went out, adding no value, no advantage, really, to the United States armed services over any sustained period of time, because the churning that took place, it took enormous amount of effort in terms of training, and then they were gone."

In his written apology Tuesday, Rumsfeld described his remarks on draftees as "not eloquently stated."

He said he had not meant to say draftees added no value while they were serving. "They added great value. I was commenting on the loss of that value when they left the service."

Rumsfeld said he had no intention of disparaging the service of draftees.

"I always have had the highest respect for their service, and I offer my full apology to any veteran who misinterpreted my remarks."

When Rumsfeld spoke to a convention of the Retired Officers Association on Monday he made no mention of the draft and no one in the audience who posed questions after the speech mentioned the Jan. 7 comments.

It is rare for a defense secretary to issue a written apology on any topic.

"It is painful for anyone, and certainly a public servant whose words are carried far and wide, to have a comment so unfortunately misinterpreted," Rumsfeld said, adding that it was "particularly troubling" to know there are service men and women — past and present — "who may believe that the secretary of defense would say or mean what some have written. I did not. I would not."

Navy to send two more carriers to Gulf region

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has ordered the Navy to double the number of aircraft carrier battle groups positioned within striking distance of Iraq, defense officials said Tuesday.

The additional naval air power is part of a broader buildup of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region. More than 60,000 troops already are there, to be joined over the next few weeks by about 120,000 more. When the buildup is finished, before the end of February, President Bush will have the option of attacking Iraq from multiple directions.

The carrier battle group led by the USS Constellation is operating in the northern Persian Gulf, the USS Harry S. Truman battle group is in the Mediterranean Sea, and Rumsfeld ordered two more groups to join them. They will be the Everett, Wash.-based USS Abraham Lincoln, now operating near Australia, and a carrier from the Norfolk, Va.-based Atlantic Fleet.

Lt. Cmdr. Dave Werner, an Atlantic Fleet spokesman, said the fleet commander, Adm.

Robert Natter, decided Tuesday the Norfolk carrier will be the USS Theodore Roosevelt, assuming it successfully completes training now under way in the Caribbean Sea.

There has been speculation that the USS Kitty Hawk, forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan, may be headed to the Gulf region as well. However, Tuesday's announcement from defense officials made no mention of the Kitty Hawk carrier battle group.

Natter has available for short-notice deployment the USS George Washington, which returned from a six-month tour in the Mediterranean shortly before Christmas and normally would not deploy again for at least 12 months.

Each carrier has an air wing that includes 70-80 aircraft, including F/A-18 Hornet and F-14 Tomcat fighters, as well as surveillance, electronic warfare, search-and-rescue and command-and-control aircraft. A battle group also includes surface ships capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles and at least one submarine.

Officials said Rumsfeld was considering sending one or two additional carriers to the Gulf region, for a potential total of six.

Stars and Stripes contributed to this report.

Report

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Defense officials released the black occupation figures in an effort to debunk a perception held since Vietnam that minorities hold a disproportionate number of "high-risk" jobs in the military and, as a result, suffer a higher rate of casualties than their numbers would normally support.

In terms of Vietnam, the widespread impression that blacks died in disproportionate numbers during the Vietnam War is actually a myth.

According to statistics compiled by Veterans of Foreign Wars, during the Vietnam War, blacks accounted for 10.6 percent of all Americans who served (275,000), and 12.5 percent, or 7,241, of all fatalities. The percentage of blacks of military age at that time was 13.5 percent of the population.

Nevertheless, the race and military service debate was recently revived when Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., a black veteran of Korea, and Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., introduced legislation in the House that would require either military or alternative national service for all U.S. citizens age 18 to 26.

Rangel has said he wants the draft reinstated because "the burden of military service is being borne disproportionately by members of disadvantaged groups," while the children of the rich and the elite — including members of Congress — do not serve.

Segal said that today's high-tech wars are fought differently, against different enemies and usually without a well-defined "front line."

"We don't fight trench warfare anymore," Segal said. "The largest single number of casualties in the Gulf war was a National Guard logistics unit," which lost more than 20 people when an Iraqi scud missile hit its barracks.

Spanish workers plan more protests at Rota

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Spanish base workers demanding more take-home pay are heading back to the picket line.

Local national workers at the Rota Navy base are planning a series of unannounced strikes and demonstrations next month.

Union leaders and delegates in Rota voted Wednesday to resume the strikes to protest what they say is a lack of progress by both the U.S. and Spanish governments regarding a four-year labor dispute.

The strikes would come as the U.S. military continues a buildup in the Middle East in preparation for a possible showdown with Iraq. The Rota base — which has about 3,000 U.S. active-duty military personnel — is a major stopping

point for cargo planes and ships en route to the Southwest Asia.

"We're going to do whatever we can, talk to whoever we can, to get a solution," said Rafael Chacón, secretary for the committee that represents the four labor unions on base.

Base workers have periodically held demonstrations outside the base gates since the Spanish government took away a long-standing tax incentive in 1999. However, local national employees have not held any demonstrations in the past nine months.

Workers plan to meet with regional leaders and government officials in Madrid in the next several weeks to plead their case, but union leaders seemed pessimistic.

After a new defense accord between the United States and Spain was signed last April, Spanish officials promised workers that a new joint com-

mittee would try and solve the labor issue within six months.

Union leaders say that nothing has changed. Base workers say taking away the tax incentive has resulted in a decrease in take-home pay of between 10 percent and 30 percent.

The U.S. government pays worker salaries, but local national employees technically work for the Spanish government.

State Department officials have said that the U.S. government cannot compensate workers for the money lost due to the tax change because local national employees already make the maximum allowed under a cap established by Congress.

Since the tax change, however, the U.S. Navy has tried to bridge the pay gap by reducing the workweek and offering no-interest loans.

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Trial for two crashes set for RAF controller

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — An air traffic controller in the Royal Air Force will go on trial Monday, charged with contributing to the crash of two U.S. Air Force jets nearly two years ago in the Scottish mountains.

Flight Lt. Malcolm Williams, who is based at RAF Leuchars in Scotland, has been charged with "doing an act in relation to an aircraft causing loss of life" and "negligently performing a duty."

The court-martial at Faslane Naval Base in western Scotland will begin at 2 p.m. Monday and is expected to last more than one week, said a spokesman with the RAF in Scotland.

Williams was on duty at the base in central Scotland on March 26, 2001, when two F-15s from the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England, crashed into a mountain.

The pilots of the two jets were killed.

They were Lt. Col. Kenneth Hyvonen of the 48th Operations Support Squadron and Capt. Kirk Jones of the 493rd Fighter Squadron. They were on training missions when their jets slammed into the Cairngorm Mountains at an altitude of about 4,000 feet.

The Air Force Accident Investigation Board concluded its report a few months after the crash, but it has been withheld from release until after the trial so as not to prejudice any potential juror.

The Ministry of Defence inquiry includes information that will be released at the court-martial, a spokeswoman said.

The trial has been delayed several times, but is now expected to proceed as scheduled, the RAF spokesman said Tuesday.

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Kuwaitis hint at break in Americans' shooting

BY DIANA ELIAS

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait's leaders offered their condolences Wednesday for the slaying of an American defense contractor and the wounding of another, while security and embassy officials hinted that a break in the case could come soon.

David Caraway, a senior engineer for software developer Tapestry Solutions, was in stable condition Wednesday at al-Razi hospital in Kuwait City. His co-worker Michael Rene Pouliot, 46, was killed when the two men were ambushed Tuesday morning after leaving a U.S. military base.

"We have important leads," an Interior Ministry official told The Associated Press, saying an arrest announcement could come soon. The official,

who spoke on condition of anonymity, refused to elaborate.

A U.S. official also said Wednesday that an announcement regarding the case may be made soon. Kuwaiti officials did not answer repeated calls from The Associated Press Wednesday evening.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Both men were civilian contractors working for the U.S. military at Camp Doha, about 10 miles west of Kuwait City. A gunman hiding behind a hedge about 3 miles from the U.S. military base opened fire with a Kalashnikov on the Americans' sports utility vehicle while it was at a stoplight.

A Tapestry employee said Caraway was in stable condition and talking on Wednesday. He suffered chest, arm and thigh injuries.

Three bullets had been removed, the employee said on condition of anonymity.

Caraway was able to speak to an American consular officer Wednesday, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

The crown prince and prime minister, Sheik Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, sent letters of condolences to U.S. President George Bush condemning the "terrorist act," the state-run Kuwait News Agency said Wednesday.

U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Richard Jones also condemned the slaying as a terror attack. Jones and Kuwaiti officials said the attack wouldn't affect ties between the two countries.

The U.S. Embassy said it was urging Americans to be alert to their surroundings and to continually assess their security.

Tuesday's shooting was the third against American citizens.

Iraq: Drone shot down

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq claimed on Wednesday to have shot down an unmanned U.S. aircraft that entered its airspace from Kuwait, but the U.S. military disputed the report, saying it appeared to be untrue.

If the report were confirmed, it would be the second time in a month that Iraqi defenses had brought down one of the American reconnaissance drones.

A spokesman for U.S. Central Command said no Predators — or any other aircraft operating in the region — were known to have gone missing.

An unnamed spokesman for Iraq's air defense command, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency, said Wednesday that the downed aircraft was a Predator but did not say where or when it was shot down.

Malvo set for trial in sniper case

FAIRFAX, Va. — A grand jury indicted 17-year-old Lee Boyd Malvo on two counts of capital murder in last fall's sniper shootings, setting the stage for a death penalty trial.

The indictment, issued Tuesday and made public Wednesday, also includes one count of using a firearm in a murder. Both capital murder counts stem from the Oct. 14 slaying of FBI agent Linda Franklin.

The indictment officially marks the transfer of Malvo's case to adult court. A juvenile court judge ruled last week that Malvo could be tried as an adult, making him eligible for the death penalty if convicted of capital murder.

His arraignment has not been scheduled.

Roe anniversary draws thousands

WASHINGTON — Supporters and opponents of abortion massed in the nation's capital Wednesday with placards, speeches and demonstrations in renewal of what has become an annual — and emotional — winter rite.

The occasion was the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion — an issue that President Bush, who was in St. Louis to give a speech on his tax-cut plan, addressed by long-distance message. In prepared remarks for broadcast to anti-abortion groups, he said America "must protect the lives of innocent children waiting to be born."

Wednesday's events attracted tens of thousands on a frigid but sunny day. Participants included priests, nuns, political leaders.

Men, women and children of all ages came as well, and both the anti-abortion and pro-choice movements were well represented.

From The Associated Press

Avril Lavigne: Perfectly punk in a world of pop polish

BY DAVID SEGAL

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — She's plopped on a sofa backstage, looking bored to the point of catatonia, her only vital sign the nonstop jiggling of a pink-sneakered foot. The unfocused stare, her barely audible voice — it all says she'd rather be anywhere but in this tiny room, hashing over her life, her music, her family and her seemingly instant rise from small-town obscurity to big-time "Britney killer" for the zillionth time.

The only topic that interests her in this interview is how little she enjoys interviews.

"No offense or anything, it's just, like, weird when someone's, like, 'So how does it feel?'" she murmurs. "You just shake someone's hand, sit down and spill your guts. And they just want to know so much and you're just, like, 'Why do you care?'"

Why do we care? Well, girl-

friend, let's start with your debut album, "Let Go," which has sold more than 4 million copies and is hovering at No. 3 on the charts 31 weeks after its release. Let's move on to the five Grammy nominations, including nods for best song of the year ("Complicated") and best new artist.

No offense or anything, but that sort of cannonball grabs the attention of everyone in the pool. According to fans, this 5-foot-1, 18-year-old Canadian is leading a counteroffensive against factory-made teen pop.

Lavigne (it's pro-nounced AV-ril La-VEEN) co-writes the songs, plays an instrument and doesn't dance. She dresses in baggy pants and T-shirts, like any sophomore skipping third-period French. She's tomboyish but cute, feisty but somehow indifferent, naughty enough to swear and flip the occasional bird.

She certainly seems real enough during the interview,

if only because there's no point in faking so much apathy. It's charming, paradoxically. Lavigne has been perfectly packaged, right down to the punky type font on her album, but she and the character she's playing onstage are the same person.

Lavigne comes from a town in Ontario called Napanee, population 5,000. Her parents are strict Baptists, and Avril spent far more time at church than playing records. Actually, she never owned any LPs or CDs growing up.

At age 16, she'd stirred up enough interest at a festival called North by Northwest for an audition with an Arista talent scout, Ken Krongrad.

He, in turn, was knocked out enough to urge Arista label head L.A. Reid to sign Lavigne, which he did, shortly after a 15-minute tryout in New York. The deal is reportedly worth \$1.25 million for two albums.

But by then, Lavigne

couldn't stand light country-pop.

"When I got signed," she recalls, "L.A. Reid had heard me sing three songs that were like nice little Celine Dion songs and he'd signed me off my voice and vocal performance. And as he got to know me I told him, 'I don't want to be singing those songs. I want to write my own songs. I want to rock out a bit.'"

Lavigne tried collaborating with nearly a dozen professional songwriters sent by Arista, but all of them were pushing her back toward Faith Hill. Nothing worked until she met with a three-person songwriting and production team called the Matrix: Scott Spock and husband and wife Graham Edwards and Lauren Christy. The trio's long list of previous credits includes Christina Aguilera and the Backstreet Boys. She explained exactly how "Complicated" was written.

Lavigne came back the next day and nailed the song in a single take.

Baby girl for Bryants

Kobe Bryant had to go back to work Monday night when the Lakers hosted the Los Angeles Clippers, barely 24 hours after he became a father for the first time.

"I'm excited to play basketball, but to be honest, I really didn't want to leave," he said. "I did not want to take my eyes off her and my wife."

Bryant's wife, Vanessa, gave birth to Natalia Diamante Bryant at 3:08 p.m. Sunday, Lakers spokesman John Black said.

The baby weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 19½ inches long, Black said.

"She looks just like Vanessa, thank God. She has a head full of hair just like her momma," said Bryant, who missed practice Sunday.

Clooney's antiwar cry

George Clooney is the latest celebrity to add his voice to the anti-war cry, reports BBC Online.

The actor has spoken out against a possible U.S. invasion of Iraq, accusing President Bush of running the U.S. government "like 'The Sopranos.'"

Speaking on the PBS television network, Clooney accused Bush of cutting a

Faces 'n' places

deal with France and Russia to ensure the U.N. Security Council will not complain when "we go into a war and kill a lot of innocent people."

"Are we going to try and talk to Saddam Hussein without jumping in and killing people first?" he said. "I don't believe we're going to wait until the last resort to do it. That's what bothers me. The government itself is run exactly like 'The Sopranos.'"

Belafonte blasts Bush

Entertainer Harry Belafonte is continuing his criticism of the Bush administration and some of its more prominent members, saying the president is not a friend to blacks and their aspirations.

Belafonte, 75, said he expects the Bush administration to try to wipe away affirmative action.

Belafonte also took another shot at Secretary of State Colin Powell, who in October, he likened to a slave who sold his principles. Belafonte said Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice are hurting the cause of black America.

Speaking at a Martin Luther King Jr.

celebration at a Chicago church on Sunday, Belafonte drew the crowd of more than 1,000 to its feet for raucous ovations several times during his speech.

Belafonte was a close friend and confidant of King, who was killed in 1968. The singer credited his involvement in the civil rights movement to a meeting with King in the early 1950s, in which King sought out the actor to discuss the movement.

District renovation

American architect Frank Gehry is enthusiastic about the dilapidated Lisbon, Portugal, theater district he has agreed to renovate.

"It's something magic," the 73-year-old architect told reporters Monday.

Gehry, who won acclaim for his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain — along with buildings in the United States, Japan, Germany and France — visited the Parque Mayer theater area Sunday after having dinner with Lisbon Mayor Pedro Santana Lopes.

Gehry said he has to get a feel for the Portuguese capital before starting on a design.

"I have to spend time here. I have to meet with the people," he said.

From wire services

All eyes on Gruden

Coach can't escape spotlight as he prepares for former team

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The view from the end zone told it all on Super Bowl media day.

Warren Sapp had a nice-sized group around his table. Same with Keyshawn Johnson. Ronde Barber, Brad Johnson and Keenan McCardell were practically doing one-on-ones.

Everybody else was talking to Jon Gruden.

This is, after all, Gruden Bowl I — time to talk about the coach's awkward offseason move from the Oakland Raiders to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers — the teams that meet Sunday for the NFL title.

"I don't try to relive the whole thing," Gruden said.

"Sometimes, change is inevitable. Things have gone well since then. Hopefully, we can all continue to have a nice life."

They are all having nice lives — especially this week.

Gruden, the 39-year-old wonder-coach, got a raise and expense-paid move to the place where he spent his childhood, Tampa, Fla., to coach the team he always adored, the Buccaneers.

Raiders owner Al Davis got a king's

ransom by NFL standards — two first-round draft choices and two seconds, plus \$8 million in exchange for a guy who will never play a down.

Bill Callahan got Gruden's old job.

The whole gang made it to the Super Bowl — Davis and Oakland for the first time in 19 seasons and the Bucs for the first time.

And the rest of the football world? They got possibly the most intriguing soap opera since Broncos coaches of the present and past, Mike Shanahan and Dan Reeves, aired their dirty laundry before the Denver-Atlanta Super Bowl in Miami four years ago.

"The whole thing embarrasses me. That's why I don't want to get too philosophical about this," Gruden said. "I just want this to be a sidebar on the lower-right column of the sports page somewhere."

But this is more than mere sidebar material.

As the story goes, Gruden began to chafe after last season and made it known he wanted an extension and a raise or he wanted out.

Gruden had one year left on his contract after last season and made it known he wanted an extension and a raise or he wanted out.

"Bottom line was, Al Davis wasn't going to pay Jon Gruden four or five million dollars," said John Madden, the

former Raiders coach-turned-TV analyst.

Gruden also wanted more say in personnel decisions. Davis has always made those calls with the Raiders. Gruden got tired of the perception that Davis was the "real" coach of the team, a stereotype every Raiders coach has fought over the years, thanks to the owner's constant presence at practices and in the locker room.

"Some of you have some of the information, some of you have none of it, some of you have all of it," Gruden said. "You can form your own opinion. I never looked at autonomy as an issue anywhere I've been. I can work with people. At the same time, when it comes to calling plays, when it comes to organizing players, that's the job of a coach."

Some Raiders, like Jerry Rice, loved Gruden. "He's similar to Bill Walsh," Rice said, invoking the name of his first, and beloved, coach with the 49ers. "But life is about choices."

Others, like Jerry Porter, were glad to see him go. "It was confrontation after confrontation with him, and I was always getting mad," he said.

Gruden said he tried hard to have everybody like him.

"But there are some people you will just never please," he said. "I expect some of those guys to have some bitterness."

One team's loss is another's gain, and the Bucs are ecstatic about the guy they got.

General Manager Rich McKay said they needed a coach who could pump some life into their offense, and they went after him hard.

That's only part of the story.

Soon after Tampa Bay fired Tony Dungy last season, they thought they had Bill Parcells to replace him. Parcells reneged.

So, the Bucs turned to Davis and asked him about Gruden. The negotiations never took off. Tampa's coaching search meandered on, with Marvin Lewis, Ralph Friedgen and Steve Mariucci getting into the mix.

But eventually, the search came back to Gruden. The Bucs went back to Davis, made a deal, and McKay says there are no regrets about giving up so much to get him.

"If you find the guy who fits your team, and exactly what your needs are, then you've got to get that guy. Period," McKay insists.

Now reviled in Oakland, and loved in Tampa, Gruden insists he has only respect for Davis, and only good memories about his days with the Raiders.

"I don't like getting into the whole thing," he said. "My contract was running out. I got traded. Hopefully, in four or five years, we'll all be friends."

Talent-rich Raiders' receivers are happy to share the wealth

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tim Brown honestly doesn't mind being Oakland's third option. After all, not many third receivers finish a season with 81 catches — and rarely does a third receiver complain about going to the Super Bowl.

For most of the last decade, Brown was the only consistent receiving threat for the Raiders. When he didn't get the ball enough, he bristled — and he twice thought about leaving the team.

This season, Brown is just one of the many options used by MVP quarterback Rich Gannon in the NFL's top-rated offense. And even though this is the first year since 1991 that Brown didn't lead the Raiders in catches, he's not upset.

He's getting ready for his first Super Bowl after 15 seasons.

"Some people wondered if I could take a lesser role, but I don't feel like this is anything lesser," Brown said. "The way we throw the ball, everybody is important, everybody is key. If Rich Gannon decides to throw to you, the spotlight is on you."

Besides Brown, Jerry Rice and Jerry Porter play nearly every down in the Raiders' complex offense,

since Raiders coach Bill Callahan and offensive coordinator Marc Trestman enjoy using three receivers at the same time. Gannon also makes ample use of running back Charlie Garner as a receiver in the West Coast offense.

Rice made the Pro Bowl with 92 catches, but Garner — one of the best pass-catching running backs of recent years — had 91 catches.

Porter, the speedy deep threat, had 51 catches with a team-best 13.5 yards-per-catch average and nine touchdowns; even rookie tight end Doug Jolley had 32 catches.

"As a quarterback, you can't ask for more," Gannon said. "I know when I drop back that I'm usually going to have five options. All of our receivers are good pass-catchers, but they're tough, too. We're not afraid to throw to anybody over the middle."

In Brown and Rice, the Raiders have two of the three most prolific receivers in NFL history (Cris Carter is the other) — and neither has slowed down appreciably during their two seasons together. They complement each other, since Brown still has fingers of the burning speed of his youth, while Rice's hands are as sticky as ever.

"They're great players," Buccaneers cornerback Ronde Barber said. "They were great players when I was in Pop Warner ball. It's great that they're still hav-

ing so much success, but there's no awe factor. They're still players."

Rice and Brown demand respect, attention and a significant portion of Gannon's downfield throws. But what to do with Porter, a burgeoning talent in his third NFL season? That's a question never answered by former coach Jon Gruden, who infuriated Porter with a game plan that rarely made use of all three receivers.

"When Gruden left, I breathed a sigh of relief," Porter said.

"He didn't help me at all. He only hurt my career. He created an uptight atmosphere, but when he left, everything got back to football."

Callahan and Trestman saw Porter as a resource, not a problem.

Trestman's three-receiver schemes were conceived to maximize Porter's contributions.

"You want to get your best players on the field," Trestman said. "You don't want Jerry Porter sitting on the sideline for 35 or 40 plays. Everybody has really bought into our plan."

Oakland's toughest task still looms, of course: Tampa Bay's top-ranked passing defense, with cornerbacks Barber and Brian Kelly backed up by safeties John Lynch and Dexter Jackson. But then again, the Bucs haven't faced a corps of receivers quite like the Raiders.

FOOTBALL

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre won't play in the Pro Bowl because of a sprained ankle while Packers wide receiver Donald Driver will make his debut in place of Randy Moss, who has a sprained knee.

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota's Michael Bennett has been added to the NFC's Pro Bowl team, becoming the first Vikings running back to play in the game since Robert Smith in 1998.

Bennett replaces Green Bay's Ahman Green.

CLEVELAND — Former Cleveland Browns linebacker Eddie Johnson, who was known as "The Assassin" because of his hard tackles, died after a two-year battle with colon cancer. He was 43.

Sports in brief

AUTO RACING

CONCORD, N.C. — NASCAR put tracks on notice that the 2004 Winston Cup schedule could look a lot different under a realignment plan that might move races to different parts of the country.

But it was the possible changes to the 2004 schedule that drew the most attention.

NASCAR has a set list of criteria it will be looking for track owners to meet in order to keep its current race dates.

Among things NASCAR will be studying are tracks that need significant upgrades, have trouble selling tickets, have a history of poor weather on race

weekends, or are in small markets that lack adequate hotels and restaurants.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — After balking for several months, Dale Earnhardt Jr. said he would drive for Dale Earnhardt Inc. through the 2007 season.

LONDON — Formula One's governing body said it would bar traction control and automatic gearboxes beginning with the British Grand Prix on July 20.

Launch control — a mechanism that gets a car up to speed at the start of the race — is also expected to be banned at the same time.

The ruling body also went back on plans to ban pit-to-car radios.

TENNIS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Will-

iams beat fellow American Meghann Shaughnessy 6-2, 6-2 to advance to the Australian Open semifinals for the first time.

There she'll face Kim Clijsters, the last — and only fifth — woman to beat the top-ranked Williams last year.

Clijsters advanced to her second consecutive Australian semi with a 6-2, 6-4 win over eighth-seeded Anastasia Myskina of Russia.

Rainer Schuettler of Germany reached the quarterfinals for the first time at a major when he overcame American James Blake in four sets and went a step further with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-0 drubbing of Wimbledon runner-up David Nalbandian.

Steffi Graf might make a comeback to tennis at Roland Garros to honor a promise to husband Andre Agassi if he wins a fourth Australian Open.

Continued on Page 7

Mavericks 107, Rockets 86

DALLAS — Yao Ming won't say it. His coach will: The Houston Rockets' 7-foot-6 rookie sensation is tired.

After seeing his center's lethargic play in a 107-86 loss to the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night, Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said he's giving Yao two days off "to get his batteries recharged."

Yao had six points and five rebounds in 22 minutes against a team he torched for 30 points and 16 rebounds two months ago. He committed five turnovers and had three shots blocked by Raef LaFrentz, who is 7 inches shorter. LaFrentz also once forced a jump ball, which LaFrentz won.

"I think he needs to take two days off and rest," Tomjanovich said. "For him to have five turnovers, that's a lot for him because he's not a mistake player. ... This wasn't a good picture of him. I feel for him. He needs some time off."

Yao downplayed the idea, even getting frustrated when it kept coming up in postgame interviews.

"I felt I had good opportunities, I just didn't put the ball in the basket," he said. "That's the third time somebody's asked me — I'm not tired."

This was Yao's 40th NBA game. He came to the league straight from play-

ing for China in the World Championships, which came after playing professionally in his native country. His longest season in the China Basketball Association was 34 games.

"If I hit the wall, I don't know it," he said. "That's for you guys to decide."

The Mavericks came in on a three-game losing streak, having dropped road games against Sacramento, Phoenix and Seattle. They hadn't lost consecutive games all season until then.

Dallas hit its first four shots — all long jumpers — and led by 12 early. Although Houston briefly went ahead, the Mavs regained control by outscoring the Rockets 29-13 in the second quarter. The game was never close again.

"It was good to see us win again. It seems like a month, not a week, since we won," Dallas coach Don Nelson said.

Dirk Nowitzki rebounded from a scoreless first quarter to score eight of the Mavs' first nine in the second, starting with a layup off a great spin move. He had 12 of his 26 points in the period.

Steve Nash had 20 points and eight assists and Michael Finley scored 19 points, including the 5,000th of his career on a hard-fought tip-in just before

the buzzer at the end of the third quarter.

LaFrentz had eight points and five blocks. In addition to his stuffs on Yao, he also rejected a dunk attempt by James Posey.

Posey typified Houston's offensive woes by following that embarrassment with an airball on a three-pointer on the next possession.

In losing their second straight since an exciting overtime victory over the Los Angeles Lakers, the Rockets committed a season-high 26 turnovers and had a season-low eight assists. That horrible combination led to their most lopsided loss of an otherwise strong season. At 23-17, Houston is 10 games better than its 13-27 record at the same point last season.

"We had horrible decision-making," Tomjanovich said.

The teams meet again next Wednesday in Houston. Yao is already looking forward to playing LaFrentz again.

"We'll see what happens next time," he said, smiling.

Kings 109, Nets 102

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Chris Webber had 36 points, 15 rebounds and

eight assists and all five Sacramento starters scored in double figures in a victory against New Jersey.

Peja Stojakovic scored 12 of his 26 points in the third quarter for the Kings, who improved to 18-2 at home. Mike Bibby added 13 points and 10 assists and Vlade Divac and Doug Christie each scored 11.

Jason Kidd led New Jersey with 27 points in another frustrating night for the Atlantic Division leaders against Sacramento. The Nets lost by 36 points at home to the Kings on Jan. 9.

Magic 103, Cavaliers 94

CLEVELAND — Tracy McGrady scored 35 points to spoil Keith Smart's coaching debut with Cleveland.

McGrady came in as the league's leading scorer at 30 points per game, and he had matched that with 6:55 left in the third quarter with a pair of free throws.

At that point, McGrady had outscored the Cavs' starters 30-29.

He had 33 points after three quarters.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas led Cleveland with a career-high 35 points, but the Cavs, who have lost 11 of 13, didn't play much better with Smart calling the shots as they had with John Lucas for the first 42 games this season.

From The Associated Press

Rangers 5, Islanders 0

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Bryan Trottier hadn't won a Rangers-Islanders game in a very long time. You have to look back even farther to find the last time the Rangers shut out the Islanders.

That all ended during a surreal night on Long Island.

Trottier played the last of his 15 seasons with the New York Islanders in 1989-90. He left as arguably their best player ever: a four-time Stanley Cup champion set for the Hall of Fame. His No. 19 hangs from the Nassau Coliseum rafters.

He returned Tuesday night as the arch enemy — coach of the hated New York Rangers. He was booed when his name was mentioned, but left the building as a winner again with a 5-0 triumph, the Rangers' first shutout victory against the Islanders since Nov. 23, 1985.

"We wanted to win for Bryan coming back here and we wanted to win for ourselves and the two points," said Mike Dunham, who made 31 saves to post his second shutout this season and 13th of his career.

Trottier's players were ready to go before the first puck was dropped. Forwards Matthew Barnaby and Sandy McCarthy got into tussles with Islanders counterparts Jason Blake and Eric Cairns during pregame warmups. No gloves were dropped, but the tone was set for a very physical game.

"I was ready to lay down the law if I had to," said defenseman Tom Poti, the Rangers' leading scorer who assisted on Joel Bouchard's third-period goal.

He didn't have to, because Eric Lindros and Bobby Holik did just fine with linemate Matthew Barnaby. Lindros had three assists, and along with Holik left Islanders lying in their wake. Barnaby scored the first and third goals.

The way Barnaby saw it, he could've had his first career hat trick.

"I missed on the first shift, probably my best

NHL

chance of the night," Barnaby said. "I had a point-blanker, but I hit a shanker wedge into the corner."

Boris Mironov, and Jamie Lundmark had the other goals. The 11th-place Rangers trail the seventh-place Islanders by two points.

Holik fell into Chris Osgood in the third, sending the Islanders' goalie off with a sprained ankle. Osgood made 22 saves before being replaced by Garth Snow with 14 minutes left.

Cairns was hit hard late and sustained a separated shoulder that is expected to keep him out four-to-six weeks.

"It was just a bad game under our belts and we have to forget about it," Islanders center Claude Lapointe said. "They had an easy night."

The Rangers snapped a three-game losing streak to the Islanders.

They are on a 5-2 run and have won nine of 11 on Long Island.

"I think there is something special coming into this building," Trottier said. "The fact is we got two points and we're happy about that. It was a total team effort."

Flyers 3, Maple Leafs 1

TORONTO — Jeremy Roenick and Mark Recchi scored 22 seconds apart in the third period, and surging Philadelphia ended the Toronto's 13-game home unbeaten streak.

Michal Handzus scored in his fourth straight game for the Flyers, who also won their fourth in a row. Philadelphia has won 10 of 11, and is 6-0 on the road over that span.

Roman Cechmanek made 22 saves for the Flyers, an Eastern Conference-best 15-6-3 away from home this season.

Penguins 0, Sabres 0

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Martin Biron stopped 23 shots for Buffalo in his second straight shutout, and Sebastian Caron made 34 saves for Pittsburgh.

Biron, who has three shutouts this season, beat Phoenix 1-0 on Saturday night.

Caron, playing in only his sixth career game, got his second shutout. He blanked Carolina on Jan. 15.

Thrashers 8, Blues 4

ATLANTA — Dany Heatley and Ilya Kovalchuk scored twice each as Atlanta tied a team record for goals.

Playing on his 22nd birthday, Heatley had his goals in the first, helping the Thrashers set a franchise mark with five in a period. Dan Snyder, Brad Tapper, Marc Savard and Frantisek Kaberle also scored in the game for Atlanta — 3-1 under new coach Bob Hartley.

The Thrashers also scored eight goals on Nov. 4, 2000, in Boston.

Keith Tkachuk had two goals for the Blues, who had won three of four.

Predators 3, Canucks 2

NASHVILLE — Scott Hartnell had a goal and two assists, and Tomas Vokoun made 31 saves for Nashville.

Todd Bertuzzi scored twice for Vancouver.

From The Associated Press

Continued from Page 6

HOCKEY

TORONTO — Tampa Bay Lightning forward Vaclav Prospal was suspended for two games for cross-checking, and Dallas Stars goaltender Marty Turco was suspended for one for high-sticking in separate altercations in games Monday.

RALEIGH, N.C. — Carolina Hurricanes leading scorer Rod Brind'Amour will need surgery and could miss three months after tearing a tendon in his right hand.

OLYMPICS

NEW YORK — All five vice-presidents of the U.S. Olympic Committee urged

USOC president Marty Mankamyer to resign, blaming her for infighting within the organization and claiming she conspired with a staff member to try and force CEO Lloyd Ward from his job.

Mankamyer said she would not step down.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A businessman's family withdrew an offer to donate a 22-acre Greek-themed park for use as a U.S. Olympic academy because of ethics problems in the Olympic movement.

Jim Inscoe cited several reasons — including questions surrounding the Salt Lake City Olympics and a current ethics scandal — for his family's decision against giving Jasmine Hill Gardens, an

area of lush lawns and reproductions of Greek Statuary, to the U.S. Olympic Committee.

FIGURE SKATING

MALMOE, Sweden — Elena Sokolova landed a rare triple lutz-triple toe loop combination, narrowly beating world champion and Olympic silver medalist Irina Slutskaya in the short program at the European Figure Skating Championships.

BASKETBALL

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sacramento coach Rick Adelman will coach the

Western Conference in the All-Star game Feb. 9 in Atlanta. He will coach in the All-Star game for the second time in the past three years.

NEW YORK — Former NBA coaches Mike Fratello and Cotton Fitzsimmons will coach the Rookie Challenge game on Feb. 8 in Atlanta as part of the league's All-Star weekend.

They will be assisted by former Hawks stars Bob Pettit and Lou Hudson.

BASEBALL

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America voted the Big Red Machine's George Foster and 19th century outfielder William "Dummy" Hoy into the team's Hall of Fame. They will be inducted Aug. 3.

From The Associated Press

Sports in brief continued

NBA briefs

Adelman to coach Western All-Stars

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sacramento Kings coach Rick Adelman will coach the Western Conference in next month's All-Star Game in Atlanta.

Adelman assured himself of the honor when the Kings beat the New Jersey Nets 109-102 Tuesday night.

The All-Star coaches are determined by which team has the best record in the conference on Sunday. New Jersey's Byron Scott and Dallas' Don Nelson are not eligible because they coached in last year's game.

The Kings (31-11) are second in the Western Conference to Dallas (32-8). Adelman will coach in the All-Star Game for the second time in the past three years.

Isiah Thomas of the Indiana Pacers (29-12) and Rick Carlisle of the Detroit Pistons (27-13) are vying to coach the East.

The All-Star Game will be played on Feb. 9.

Celtics' Walker expected to miss up to two weeks

WALTHAM, Mass. — Antoine Walker is expected to miss up to two weeks with a knee injury suffered in the Boston Celtics' comeback victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

An MRI taken Tuesday, one day after Boston's 100-99 victory, showed a mild ligament sprain of his right knee. Walker was hurt in the third quarter of the game in which his three-pointer provided the last points, capping a rally from a 23-point deficit.

Walker finished with 33 points and, on Tuesday, was chosen as the NBA player of the week in the Eastern Conference.

He sat out Tuesday's practice, and coach Jim O'Brien said he would not play against Milwaukee on Wednesday in Boston. Walker's 21.8-point average ranks 15th in the NBA and second among the Celtics, who have won four straight games.

Sonics' Forte declines move to injured list

SEATTLE — Seattle SuperSonics reserve guard Joseph Forte feels he spent enough time on the injured list last season. He doesn't want to go back now.

Forte said Tuesday he declined a request by Sonics management to go on the injured list earlier this month, saying he didn't believe a sore ankle was serious enough to warrant the move.

"It's not insubordination," Forte said. "I have a choice and they understand it. They can't antagonize me every day."

Sonics General Manager Rick Sund declined comment except to confirm he made the request, initially reported by the News Tribune of Tacoma. Coach Nate McMillan also declined comment.

Under NBA rules, a player can't be placed on the injured list without his consent unless the injury — a broken leg, for example — would make it impossible to perform. However, teams routinely put players on the injured list with ailments such as tendinitis or muscle sprains. Any player who goes on the injured list must sit out at least five games.

Though he's stuck behind Payton and Anderson in the Seattle lineup, Forte said he feels he's learning from the veterans, and that's why he was reluctant to give up possible playing time.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

NHL

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	27	11	8	1	63	120	99
New Jersey	27	12	3	3	60	115	88
N.Y. Islanders	21	19	5	2	49	131	140
Pittsburgh	20	19	4	5	49	129	137
N.Y. Rangers	20	23	6	1	47	127	147

Northeast Division

Ottawa	30	11	5	1	66	158	103
Toronto	25	18	4	1	55	136	119
Boston	23	18	5	1	52	143	128
Montreal	19	19	5	5	48	127	142
Buffalo	14	23	7	2	37	100	119

Southeast Division

Washington	21	18	6	3	51	134	133
Tampa Bay	19	18	6	4	48	131	137
Florida	14	16	9	8	45	108	139
Carolina	16	22	6	4	42	104	132
Atlanta	15	26	2	4	36	125	172

Western Conference Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	26	14	5	4	61	158	125
Detroit	26	13	7	1	60	138	114
Chicago	21	16	8	3	53	114	113
Columbus	18	23	4	2	42	136	147
Nashville	15	20	8	4	42	104	126

Northwest Division

Vancouver	28	15	5	0	61	151	125
Minnesota	24	16	7	1	56	120	104
Edmonton	22	15	5	6	55	133	128
Colorado	17	14	10	5	49	130	122
Calgary	16	22	7	3	42	103	131

Pacific Division

Dallas	26	10	11	1	64	147	95
Anaheim	19	17	7	4	49	112	115
Los Angeles	18	20	4	4	44	116	129
Phoenix	16	20	7	4	43	112	132
San Jose	16	20	6	4	42	120	141

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Tuesday's games

Pittsburgh 0, Buffalo 0, tie

N.Y. Rangers 5, N.Y. Islanders 0
Atlanta 8, St. Louis 4
Philadelphia 3, Toronto 1
Nashville 3, Vancouver 2

Wednesday's games

Carolina at Washington
Montreal at Tampa Bay

Ottawa at Florida

Columbus at Dallas

Detroit at Edmonton

New Jersey at San Jose

Los Angeles at Anaheim

Thursday's games

Ottawa at Atlanta

St. Louis at Chicago

Boston at Pittsburgh

N.Y. Rangers at Nashville

Phoenix at Calgary

Columbus at Colorado

Minnesota at Los Angeles

NBA

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	28	13	.683	—
Boston	24	17	.585	4
Orlando	22	21	.512	7
Philadelphia	21	20	.512	7
Washington	21	20	.512	7
New York	16	23	.410	11
Miami	14	27	.341	14

Central Division

Indiana	29	12	.707	—
Detroit	27	13	.675	1½
New Orleans	22	20	.524	7½
Milwaukee	19	21	.475	9½
Chicago	15	26	.366	14
Atlanta	14	27	.341	15
Toronto	10	32	.238	19½
Cleveland	8	35	.186	22

Western Conference Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	32	8	.800	—
San Antonio	26	14	.650	6

Utah	25	15	.625	7
Houston	23	17	.575	9
Minnesota	23	18	.561	9½
Memphis	12	28	.300	20
Denver	10	30	.250	22

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	31	11	.738	—
Portland	24	15	.615	5½
Phoenix	25	17	.595	6
L.A. Lakers	19	21	.475	11
Seattle	18	21	.462	11½
Golden State	17	23	.425	13
L.A. Clippers	15	25	.375	15

Tuesday's games

Orlando 103, Cleveland 94
Dallas 107, Houston 86
Sacramento 109, New Jersey 102

Wednesday's games

Milwaukee at Boston
Toronto at Indiana
Chicago at Orlando
Phoenix at Miami
Portland at Atlanta
Denver at New York
Philadelphia at Detroit
Seattle at Minnesota
Memphis at San Antonio
L.A. Clippers at Utah
Washington at New Orleans
Golden State at L.A. Lakers

Thursday's games

Dallas at Philadelphia
Sacramento at Memphis
New Jersey at Golden State

NFL

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
At San Diego
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
At Honolulu

AFC vs. NFC

From The Associated Press

Top 25 roundup

Mississippi 76, No. 15 Alabama 57

OXFORD, Miss. — Alabama needed a victory in the worst way. The Crimson Tide were playing in the wrong place.

Aaron Harper scored a career-high 28 points to lead Mississippi to a 76-57 victory over No. 15 Alabama on Tuesday night, the third straight season the Crimson Tide have been blown out at Tad Smith Coliseum.

Alabama, ranked No. 1 in the nation less than a month ago, dropped to 0-3 in SEC road games and has lost three of four overall.

"I wish I had some magic formula I could just whip out, but sometimes you find yourself in a place you don't want to be," coach Mark Gottfried said. "That's where we are right now."

The Crimson Tide (12-4, 2-3 Southeastern Conference) couldn't overcome off nights by both of its stars. Reigning SEC player of the year Erwin Dudley scored 13 points, and leading scorer Maurice Williams had a poor showing in his home state with nine points on 4-for-11 shooting.

Alabama lost its fifth straight at Mississippi, including embarrassing losses the previous two seasons by margins of 34 and 28.

"Before you ask, I can't explain it," Ole Miss coach Rod Barnes said. "This is a great win to beat a team that was No. 1 in the country."

Justin Reed and David Sanders had 15 points each to complement Harper's 9-for-15 shooting for Ole Miss (11-4, 2-2).

Harper finished off the Crimson Tide with consecutive three-pointers that made it 62-47 with 6:50 left. He was 4-for-6 from three-point range and had a team-high nine rebounds.

Ole Miss has won two straight against ranked SEC opponents.

"We're ranked in the race," Harper said.

No. 13 Oklahoma State 67, Baylor 64 (OT)

WACO, Texas — Tony Allen scored 17 points, the last by converting a three-point play with 38.6 seconds left in overtime, and the Cowboys extended the nation's longest winning streak to 13.

The Cowboys (15-1, 4-0 Big 12) blew a 10-point lead in the second half but pulled out the victory after Allen took a pass from Melvin Sanders and made a nifty move along the baseline for the go-ahead basket.

Lawrence Roberts had 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Bears (9-6, 0-4), forcing overtime when he made a three-pointer with 9 seconds left in regulation.

No. 14 Indiana 69, Ohio State 51

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Marshall Strickland scored 15 points and the Hoosiers relied on tough defense to beat the Buckeyes and earn a split in the season series.

The Hoosiers (14-3, 4-1 Big Ten) won their third straight game, all without leading scorer Bracey Wright, and their 10th in a row at home. Wright sat out because of a nerve injury in his back.

Ohio State (8-8, 1-4) was led by Brent Darby, who scored all 18 of his points in the second half after missing his first eight shots. The Buckeyes shot 26.8 percent and lost their third straight since beating Indiana in Columbus, Ohio.

No. 16 Notre Dame 71, Providence 65

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Chris Thomas scored 23 points and Matt Carroll had 21 as the Fighting Irish won on the road for the first time this season.

Notre Dame (15-3, 3-1) had played on

another team's court only twice this season, losses to Pittsburgh and Kentucky.

The Irish struggled with most of their offense against the Friars (9-7, 2-3), except at the free-throw line where they went 21-for-25, including 10-for-13 in the final 5:04.

Ryan Gomes had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Friars.

Thomas, who had six assists, was coming off a 4-for-17 shooting effort in the loss to Kentucky. He was 8-for-17 against the Friars, including 1-for-7 from three-point range.

No. 21 Missouri 64, Iowa St. 59

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Ricky Clemons came back from a one-game suspension and found his scoring touch just in time to lead a late spurt for the Tigers.

Clemons, a junior point guard who leads the Tigers with a 17-point average, was reinstated Monday after being charged with choking a 20-year-old woman last week. He shot 5-for-19 and missed a handful of wild layup attempts.

He finally started connecting in the closing minutes, scoring six of his 15 points in a 13-0 run that put Missouri, once down by three, ahead 60-50 with 2:45 to go.

Clemons is charged with second-degree domestic assault and is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 29. He'll likely play the rest of the season with the Tigers before the case could go to trial.

Arthur Johnson had 21 points and 11 rebounds for Missouri (11-3, 2-1 Big 12), which lost by 20 at Oklahoma State on Saturday without Clemons.

Freshman Adam Haluska had 15 points for Iowa State (10-5, 0-4), which has lost four in a row — all to ranked opponents in the Big 12.

From The Associated Press